

Hello Sublette County and LaBarge, this is Albert Sommers reporting to you on February 2, the 17th day of the General Session of the 67th Legislature. It was a busy day working through 3rd Reading and Committee of the Whole.

We heard bills on 3rd Reading. Several of these bills had amendments, and I will highlight two.

[HB0103](#) passed the House on 3rd Reading. This bill changed the date voters must declare or change their party affiliation to May 15. I believe a voter should have to declare their political party before the day of the primary, but I disagreed on the number of days it should be. I brought an amendment to change the requirement to 14 days before the election. This amendment would have allowed voters, specifically those unaffiliated with a major political party, to participate more freely in a primary. This amendment failed. Despite my disagreement with the extended number of days, choosing a party affiliation before election day is important, and I voted for this bill based upon my constituents' concerns relayed to me during the campaign.

[HB0124](#) also passed the House on 3rd Reading. As I mentioned yesterday, this bill solves an equity issue by bringing an excise tax to solar electrical generation just like it currently exists for wind. Two amendments were heard but failed. One would have added hydroelectrical generation and the second amendment would have changed the assessed tax from \$1.00 a megawatt hour to a percentage assessed on the annual gross energy earnings. I opposed these amendments.

We also worked diligently through the Committee of the Whole list.

[HB180 - Brucellosis testing-notification requirements](#), passed Committee of the Whole. This bill specifies how to deal with a non-negative Brucellosis test in Wyoming. A non-negative test is not decisively positive, and requires further examination. The bill specifically requires the

establishment of a standard communication protocol to inform all livestock producers, veterinarians and brand inspectors in the county where a non-negative brucellosis test has been confirmed in a cattle herd. The bill also requires the state veterinarian to provide testing information to the owner of an animal that has tested non-negative for brucellosis no later than three days after laboratory confirmation. I drafted and supported this bill.

[HB0123 - Collection of antler or horns by residents and nonresidents.](#) This bill allows residents to collect antlers and horns three days before nonresidents in areas of the State that have a designated season. This bill is in response to the growing influx of nonresidents collecting and selling antlers and horns and instead gives Wyoming residents a slight preference to the resource. HB180 and HB123 were bills that I drafted and handed off to new members of the House.

I can be reached at albert@albertsommers.com with questions or comments. Thank you.